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AGENCY

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30 December 1947

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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, DIVISION OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CORRELATION  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**SUBJECT: Japanese Documents**

**Reference:** a. Memorandum from the Department of State, dated  
12 December 1947, subject as above, (FC:HHG).

1. The Foreign Documents Branch, which assumed the responsibilities of the Washington Documents Center in December 1946, has checked the WDC files for the material requested by the Netherlands Government. According to the records, almost all of the documents received from the former Headquarters SEATIC at Singapore were forwarded to the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. This section, known as PACMIRS, was operated under the direction of the Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff. Examination of available PACMIRS records indicates that approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of SEATIC documents were destroyed by PACMIRS.

2. If the Department of State thinks it desirable, Foreign Documents Branch could undertake a survey to determine whether any of the documents in question, which are not definitely identified as having been destroyed by PACMIRS, are currently available in the Washington area. A search for specific SEATIC numbered documents now desired by the Netherlands Government could perhaps be undertaken on the basis of the lists mentioned in reference (a) as having been compiled in Batavia. If any such documents were uncovered, your office would be notified, and arrangements could be made to have the documents transferred, as provided by Executive Order 9748, either to the Department of State or to the National Archives as preferred. Plans for the transfer of all remaining SEATIC and ATIS documents from Foreign Documents Branch to the National Archives are already under consideration, and the representative of the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation could doubtless inspect them there after the transfer is effected. It is contrary to CIA policy to permit foreign nationals to have direct access to CIA buildings and files.

3. It should be noted that large quantities of documents concerning the Netherlands East Indies have been received directly from Japan. These are at present being screened by the Foreign Documents Branch for intelligence purposes. Those not retained for the needs of this office are forwarded to the Library of Congress or the National Archives as appropriate.

\* ATIS - Allied Translator and Interpreter Section (Pacific Theater)

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It is doubtful, however, that many of these documents were originally collected in the Netherlands East Indies, since they are written in Japanese.

4. When the State Department or its representative in Amsterdam communicates further with the Netherlands Government Institute of War Documentation regarding this matter, it appears that it would be well to point out that in letter of 30 May 1947, addressed by the Institute directly to the Central Intelligence Agency, (copy of which is enclosed for your ready reference) there is simply a general inquiry as to whether the Washington Document Center contains "material which is of interest for the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies during the second world war" and as to whether, if such material is available, it would be possible that it should be examined by representatives of the Institute and photocopied on behalf of the Institute. On the basis of this general inquiry, the Central Intelligence Agency furnished advice to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Research and Intelligence as indicated in attached copy of memorandum dated 26 June 1947, which transmitted the original Netherlands Institute letter to the Department for appropriate action. At that time, CIA had no information that the Institute was especially interested in AETIC documents. Had this Agency been aware of the specific class of documents that the Institute wished to examine, the CIA memorandum of 26 June would have reported to the State Department the same information contained in Paragraph 4 hereof, viz. that approximately ninety-five per cent (95%) of AETIC documents were destroyed by PAGLAS.

REIN L. LIGERT  
Brigadier General, USA

1 Inclosure  
Memo fr OCD to State,  
dtd 26 Jun 47, w/1 incl.

LAD/hbd

CC: OCD -1  
FDB -1  
Gen Rec - 1

RESTRICTED

LHCG/rv  
25 June 1947

26 June 1947

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MEMORANDUM FOR Special Assistant to the Secretary in Charge of Research  
and Intelligence, Department of State

SUBJECT: Netherlands request for CIG material

1. Enclosed is letter dated 30 May 1947 addressed to the Central Intelligence Group by Mrs L. de Jong, Acting Director of the Netherlands State Institute of War Documentation, wherein inquiry is made as to whether representatives of the Institute may examine and obtain photocopies of certain historical material at the Documents Branch, CIG.

2. It is considered best for CIG not to correspond directly with the Netherlands Institute in this matter. The letter is therefore referred herewith for appropriate action in the light of the facts hereinafter stated.

3. In addition to large quantities of captured Japanese documents which contain information of intelligence value, the Documents Branch has received many thousands of documents which are primarily of historical interest and have very little or no intelligence value. Only a small portion of the historical documents have been processed and catalogued, the great mass of them being stored in CIG warehouse facilities. Although some of these documents may contain information which would be of interest for the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies, a project of considerable magnitude would have to be undertaken in order to locate the desired documents and comply with the request that they be made available for examination and be photocopied. Due to the heavy workload on high priority intelligence matters, it would not be practicable to initiate such a project.

"Signed"

Deputy Assistant Director for  
Collection and Dissemination

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Encl.

ltr fr Mrs L. de Jong

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RIJKSINSTITUUT VOOR DE DOCUMENTATIE EN DE  
GESCHIEDSCHRIJVING VAN NEDERLAND IN OORLOGSTIJD)

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Directie: Prof. Mr. H. W. Posthumus, A'dam; Prof. Mr. B.H. D. Hermesdorf,  
Eijmegen; Prof. Dr. J. W. Sneller, Rotterdam

Amsterdam, May 30th 1947  
Tel. 30065

Central Intelligence Group  
Office of Collection and Dissemination  
2430 B Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Immediately after the liberation of Holland a State  
Institute of War Documentation was set up by the Netherlands Government.  
For the past two years this Institute has been engaged in collecting  
all sorts of information, printed and unprinted, on the history of the  
Netherlands during the second world war.

Recently representatives of the Institute have been given access  
by the Washington State Department and the London Foreign Office to  
the German Foreign Office records now stored in Berlin. Similarly the  
Institute has been given access to the U. S. Berlin Document Centre.  
Both the Foreign State Department Document Centre and the U. S.  
Document Centre proved to contain many documents which were of paramount  
interest for our Institute and of which photocopies will be made available  
to us. We have undertaken not to publish or to allow to be published  
any material acquired in this way without consent of the American and  
British authorities.

We have been told that it is possible that the Washington  
Document Centre may also contain material which is of interest for  
the history of the Netherlands and the Netherlands East Indies during  
the second world war.

I would therefore be very grateful if you could inform me whether  
any such material has been received by the Washington Document Centre;  
if so, whether it is still in your possession and whether it would be  
desirable and possible that it should be examined by representatives  
of our Institute and photocopied on our behalf.

Yours most sincerely

/s/ Drs L. de Jong  
Acting Director of the Netherlands  
State Institute of War Documentation.

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